

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Winkler Hosts Forum on Homeless Children**



HARTFORD--State Representative Lenny Winkler, R-Groton, today hosted a forum on homeless children in Connecticut at the State Capitol. The event featured Barbara Duffield, Policy Director of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) in Washington, D.C.

In addition to a keynote address by Duffield, the event also included several panel presentations led by representatives from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homeless, local shelters and head start programs..

According to the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration, of the state's 15,309 people in homeless shelters, 2,377 are aged birth to 17. More than 1,400 families reside in Connecticut homeless shelters that receive state funding.

"Children are among Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens," said Rep. Winkler. "While the state does devote resources to protect homeless children, clearly more can be done. By holding today's forum and opening a dialog between legislators, state agency representatives and national experts on these issues, I'm hopeful we can begin crafting plans to address the problem."